## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the body, I have spent a great deal of time and some sleepless nights trying to rationalize how we could convince some of the senators in this body that this was bad policy. I don't know how successful I've been and I won't know until the ...until the final tally is cast here. Without question, I will accept, obviously, what happens because that's the way the system works, but I have tried my best to inform the citi...the members of this body what I think is the best policy for the citizens of this state. That best policy, in my opinion, is to in fact not spend the dollars that we desperately need for projects all across the state, not in my district, not in Senator Jones' district, not in many of the districts. So I guess the choice is yours. I've said about as much as I can say as far as trying to convince you that this is bad policy from the state's standpoint. I recognize the Governor supports this. have any quarrel with that. We'll still be friends when this is I suspect he doesn't like the fact that I've spent this much time holding up this body in trying to get my message across or our message across, the message of the committee, not necessarily mine. I only... I only represent the people as best can, as all of you do. I think that's the responsible task that all of us took when we were elected. Sometimes when the tide turns and things don't work out, you wonder why you even bother to take the time to run and get elected to a position where you can represent the people of this state, but we all face that. I'm not crying on your shoulder. I understand that we all...we got winners and losers. This is something that I had hoped to win simply because I thought it was the right thing to do. I don't suspect there's a senator in here who doesn't feel the same way, that what the things that they do they think are in the best interests of the people they serve. going to keep...I'm going to keep doing what I think is right, which I think any member of this body would do the same as I'm When you are appointed to a position or elected to a position to serve you'd be less than honest with the people who elected you or appointed you if you didn't carry out the tasks that you thought was important and would best serve the people of this state. That's what I've been trying to do for the last...I guess about eight hours almost, is